COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS
COMITÉ DES MINISTRES
COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Ministers' Deputies
CM Documents

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Written Question No. 681 to the Committee of Ministers by Mr Pieter Omtzigt: "The Minsk-II agreement and flight MH17"

Reply of the Committee of Ministers
(adopted on 29 April 2015 at the 1226th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)

1. The Committee of Ministers considers that under no circumstances could those responsible for downing the Malaysian Airlines aircraft on 17 July 2014 benefit from any amnesty whatsoever. It points out, in this respect, that UN Security Council Resolution 2166 (2014) demanded that those responsible be held to account for their actions and called on all States to co-operate fully with efforts to establish accountability. Furthermore, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation requires States Parties to prosecute or extradite anyone who commits crimes defined in the Convention.

2. During examination of the Honourable Member's question, the delegation of Ukraine informed the Committee of Ministers that anyone who committed a serious crime, including those responsible for destroying the Malaysian Airlines aircraft, would not benefit from an amnesty. It also indicated that the categories of persons able to benefit therefrom would be carefully defined in strict compliance with Ukrainian legislation.